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"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"

Volume 16 #2

Summer 1998

"I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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I'LL NEVER BE GOOD ENOUGH

Did you ever think that you would never be good enough to be a "real" Christian, never be good enough for God to really love you, never be good enough to be saved? I did. I saw those people at church who looked so pious, so good, doing all the things church members were supposed to do, and I thought I could never be that "good." I was convinced that God knew I was far from what He expected of me and, therefore, that I was unacceptable to Him.

Then one day someone showed me a scripture that changed all that -- a scripture that involves a distinction between the Greek **phileo** ("deep, instinctive, personal affection, as for a close friend," Amplified Bible) and **agape** ("love with reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion, as one loves the Father," Amplified Bible). True, some translations use "love" for **phileo** and "truly love" for **agape**, but that was too subtle for me. It was becoming aware of the two different Greek "loves" that turned the tide for me.

I am referring to John 21:15-17, on the lakeshore, after the resurrection. *When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love (agape) me more than these?" He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love (phileo) you."* Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, *Simon son of John, do you love (agape) me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love (phileo) you."* Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love (phileo) me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love (phileo) me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love (phileo) you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

Peter could not think of his relationship with Jesus as **agape** love. After two inquiries, Jesus realized this and met Peter where he was -- at **phileo**. Jesus did not insist on **agape**. He accepted what Peter was capable of at the moment. I realized that He does the same for all of us, including me. That was a turning point. He accepts me where I am -- warts and all!

We find many inmates who are convinced that they are unacceptable to God; that they will never be good enough to merit the Gospel we are presenting to them. This little love story helps them, too. I try to find a time for it on each Kairos Weekend.

BIBLE QUOTES FROM NRSV

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

BY JIM STRUB

KAIROS of COLORADO

We are Christians reaching out to inmates in Colorado prisons with the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, and new life, which are available to all who repent of their sin and submit to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

We are entirely volunteer. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations by our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves.

Please use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries, or write to the address on this newsletter.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

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KAIROS KALENDAR ---

	Fall 1998	Spring 1999
Fremont	#32 Sep 17-20	#33 March
Women's	#29 Oct 15-18	#30 April
Delta	#14 Oct 22-25	#15 April
Territorial	#26 Nov 19-22	#27 May

Please keep the Kairos weekends in your prayers and on your calendars. We always need pray-ers, Closing guests, and team members. *"Christ is counting on you!"*

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ---

Kairos is always in need of **more team members**, especially men. Whether new or experienced, please pray about volunteering to share God's love with our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

You can call the Facility Coordinator (see list at top) for the prison you are interested in, or you can use the enclosed envelope. Fill in the name, phone, and address spaces, and check the line which says "___I'd like to volunteer...." Men need to specify *which prison* they are volunteering for, so we can notify the appropriate Facility Coordinator.

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OUTSIDE WEEKEND INFORMATION ---

- Walk to Emmaus, east: Jim Lollar, 303-659-6108
- Walk to Emmaus, west: Janet Keenan, 970-963-1030
- Catholic Cursillo, Den: Fransisco Mondragon, 303-429-3464
- Catholic Cursillo, Colo Spgs: Dan Furzi, 719-392-8404
- Episcopal Cursillo, East: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448
- Episcopal Cursillo, West: Jan Smith, 970-325-4409

Please pray about sponsoring Kairos team prospects.

WOMEN'S NEWS --

Kairos of Colorado is very grateful to Marj Rust for her dedicated service as the Facility Coordinator for CWCF. Thank you, Marj!!!

At the same time, we welcome Gerri Quintana into that vital area of service. Gerri was on the team of the very first Kairos held in Colorado -- CWCF #1, way back in the Fall of 1982. Welcome a-Board, Gerri!!!

AND THE FINAL CHAPEL UPDATE ---

We praise God that the new Chapel is now functioning at Colorado Women's Correctional Facility. Our monthly Reunion was held there on June 7, so no more meeting in the roll call room by the front entrance, listening to the noise and loud music from the gym next door. Instead, what a joy to be escorted through the main security trap, down the hall and through some of the south yard toward the sound of the ladies praising God in song while they awaited our arrival.

This Chapel, with its clearly designating sign, is well located inside the secure area. It is where many ladies will walk right by it going to and fro between their dorms and everything that goes on in the main, original building. The Chaplain has her offices and library in the new, 3-room addition, so now the residents will have much more access to all that in addition to worship services and Bible studies.

The old Chapel was provided to CWCF ten years ago by a fund drive coordinated by Kairos volunteers. Its site, inside the fence but outside the main trap, was OK when most of the inmates were of lower security. But as the prison expanded, many of the lower-security inmates went elsewhere, leaving many higher-security inmates who could not have access to anything going on there. The old building is now used by the vocational janitorial program, which functions weekdays only and needs less security staffing. We give God all the glory and thanks for arranging this exchange and expansion.

IN THE BEGINNING --

When did Kairos begin in Colorado? We hear differing answers to this question, so we looked it up by facility:

- Women's #1 was in November of 1982
- Fremont #1 was in April of 1983
- Territorial #1 was in April of 1986
- Delta #1 was in January/February of 1992.

At first the teams were supported by a Secretariat, as in Catholic and Episcopal Curial. In June 1985 a separate body for fund-raising purposes was incorporated as "Kairos of Colorado, Inc" and administered by a Board of Directors ("the Board"). In October 1986 the functions of the Secretariat were merged into those of Kairos of Colorado, Inc and administered by an expanded "Board" which is also known now as the Colorado District Committee of Kairos, Inc, the National Kairos with headquarters in Winter Park, Florida.

Getting back to "When did Kairos begin in Colorado?" -- the general answer (this year) is: "About 16 years ago."

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UPCOMING WEEKENDS --

Rectors for the Fall Weekends are:

- Fremont: Tom Federico
- Women's: Lil Salazar
- Delta: Bill Bennett
- Territorial: Joseph Mares

Dave Tillack has prepared a set of Directives for incoming rectors and has provided each rector with a copy. Bill Cooper and Bill Davidson are preparing guidelines for team Spiritual Counselors and will distribute them soon to rectors and coordinators.

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TRAINING --

Ken Grosse is organizing a leadership training session for sometime this summer. The session will start on a Friday evening and continue through Saturday. The training is mandatory for all rectors, but many others will also benefit, as you can see by the list of topics to be covered:

- Observing Rector -- not just a timekeeper
- Rector -- involve both Observing and Advising
- Advising Rector -- the continuity of the program
- Relationship of Facility Coordinator to Rector
- Instructional Reunion
- 2-Day Retreat
- Importance of team member commitment to residents.

For further information, please contact Ken.

AGAPE GOES BOTH WAYS --

After the residents opened their agape bags on Fremont #31, one of them wrote the following agape letter to the team:

Dear Kairos teammates,

I really appreciate the love you have all shown me over this weekend. I never knew love like this could be real. Not real for me anyway. Your letters really touched my heart and I am a changed man. I know I'm only 22, but I will never forget this weekend for as long as I live. This has been really special to me and I have NEW life time goals!! Thanks to you all! Out of all the programs I have been to, participated in over these past 5 years, none of them means as much as this one does. I get out in 28 days and hopefully if God is willing I'll get to see you all again on the outside. I need a strong church and support system that I can depend on to keep me out of trouble. I am the Priest of my household and I want to lead my wife and son in the right direction! Thanks to you all I have confidence and the knowledge to lead my family down the right path! I love you all and I will never forget this or any one of you. Even though I might forget about how cold it was in this room or what we had for lunch 10 years from now, but I'll never forget how good of a experience this was for me and how much I grew! Thank you all for everything that you have done. I see Jesus in you all. I love you and I will miss you. I wish this weekend would never end. Thanks again for everything.

*Maranatha,
[signature]*

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NATIONAL NOTES --

The 1998 SUMMER CONFERENCE will be held in Castine, Maine, July 23-26. These conferences are very informative and offer great fellowship with Kairos people from all over the country. There will be several mini workshops offered in addition to the special evening programs. There will also be three weekend-long training sessions starting one day earlier.

For more information, contact the Kairos national office: 407-629-4948, 140 N. Orlando Ave., Ste 275, Winter Park, FL 32789-3680, e-mail: kairosnat@aol.com.

Kairos, Inc., is now on the WORLD WIDE WEB, thanks to a Kairos volunteer who designed and donated a dynamic web site. Look for: <http://www.kairosprisonministry.org> where you will find a colorful welcome page offering the opportunity to sign in to receive the national newsletter by e-mail. There are several other option buttons, too.

NOTE: Kairos of Colorado also has a web site, as do some other districts. Thanks to Jack Burson our address is: <http://www.olac.com/kairos/> Welcome to the modern communications era.

FROM FREMONT #31 ---

I came to see what Kairos was about. I had put God on a shelf. He said, "I love you, son." I found the love of God and He's alive in my heart now. I found love and friendship I didn't know before. The doors are open, with lots of opportunities out there. I know now if I put God first, not me, things will work out better. I've got the joy of Christ in my heart I can't contain. Today I'm honestly a new person in Christ.

I came lonely, even though I had a family out on the street. I found the presence of the Lord, that it's real. I'm taking a much closer relationship with Jesus Christ than ever before, even though I was in church. I tried and tried to get to God. Now I know it's only through Jesus.

I came in critical spiritual condition, lost, looking for answers. I was seeking blessing and direction. I found love and answers to questions. I was a scientist looking for truth you can't see. I found the way to forgiveness. Now I believe something I can't touch or feel. I'm taking the love of Christ, fellowship, anointing for commitment to serve God. After those letters, I found I hated those who loved me, even God. I had to come to prison to find out from you that God loved me. The true meaning of unconditional love? -- here it is.

I'm the type who needs proof, but after this weekend, I'm going to take that blind step of faith and follow Jesus.

FROM WOMEN'S #28 ---

We came expecting something from God, confused, despondent, lost on issues, and some thought God had stopped loving them. We found the love of Jesus, answers to questions, peace, friendship, and how to receive and give love. I was born again! and delivered. We're taking a sense of unity with people, and motivation to work for the Lord, the true definition of love and how to care for other people -- and a full stomach.

I came with a heavy load of unforgiveness, depression, beating myself up. Yesterday I dropped one of those boxing gloves. Today I dropped the other one. Now I know there's a beautiful world out there, and hope for me.

I never experienced so much love. I wasn't sure if I could ever know love -- all that pain and abuse. I just feel so complete now. I've been walking with the Lord for a while now. My main goal is to serve Him all the time. Jesus is the only one who's ever loved me through everything. You've given me something no one can ever take away. I'm so much at peace now and feel so wanted. I'm on fire for Jesus and will stay on fire.

I was lost, judgemental, had an empty heart. I found peace, that God's working on that stone in me. If I put as much time and effort into walking with the Lord as I did into drugs and alcohol, then I can really serve Him.

FROM DELTA #13 ---

These men at this table are my brothers. We are different colors just so people can tell us apart.

I didn't know what to expect from Kairos, but have been blessed with my brothers in Christ who showed love every time I fell. I have been involved with crime for fifteen years, but through this Kairos experience I know I cannot turn away from Him again. Thank you Delta Correctional Center for allowing Kairos.

I have felt so alone in prison, but then I found God here. I've always had God with me, but left Him at the door and came back to prison. Now I know I'm not alone, that there are people out there who love me. God wants us to give the love that He's given us here this weekend.

The joy and love you gave out were lifegiving. Your actions spoke louder than words.

At Kairos, I learned how to love others and how to accept the love of Jesus Christ. I hope everyone will know how to accept God's love.

I grew up the son of a minister, but have been struggling and had built walls around myself. Those walls came down when I saw all of you people here. I see the glory of God in all of your faces.

FROM TERRITORIAL #25 ---

We came hopeful to learn more of God. We found the love of God and were totally blessed. We can see God through the people who came. We're taking Jesus in our hearts.

We didn't know nothing. People came to show us how to be friends with God. We found friends, brothers, the Lord. We're taking that the Lord loves us, and you love us. We're proud to be part of Kairos.

I came scared, concerned -- what would those people be like. I found friendship, trust, faith. I'm leaving a better person and will try to follow God's footstep. I'll try to break down my brick walls. We don't realize until it's too late. I'm trying to break down my brick walls. I've had a lot of hurt -- people saying bad things, but they'll have to answer to God.

I heard the news, but didn't want to come. I thought I've got the Lord in my life. But He really wasn't until I came here. The love my family showed wasn't even close to this. I found forgiveness. When I put that paper in the water, it was like looking at a cleaned window. I'm leaving full of true love.

I came shaking, wondering what's going on. I'm a big cry baby. This is going to help me a lot. Maybe we can pray together in the yard instead of fighting and bickering. Let's hang in there and focus on God. I gave it all to Jesus and will try to help a brother who stumbles.